

United States. These are the species that have shown the most marked decrease in recent years, and which, therefore, stand most in need of protection. This investigation was undertaken for the purpose of furnishing information as to present ranges, relative abundance, and migration, with reference to practical legislation. The first part of this valuable report is devoted to a consideration of the extent and causes of the recent decrease in numbers of these useful birds, and the suggestion of measures for their better protection. The absolute prohibition of spring shooting in every part of the country is strongly urged as necessary for the preservation of these species for the benefit of future generations. Then follows a list of species that winter principally in the United States, and a list of those that winter both in the United States and Canada. It is stated that 54 species regularly visit the United States during some portion of the year.

Following this preliminary matter, the species are taken up in systematic sequence, with reference to their breeding ranges, their winter ranges, their seasons and routes of migration. The basis for determining the ranges consists of published records, data derived from museum specimens, and the unpublished notes of the field agents of the Biological Survey. "The data on migration are derived almost entirely from the migration schedules contributed since 1884 to this Bureau by hundreds of observers distributed throughout the United States and Canada." It thus follows that a vast amount of hitherto unpublished information on the ranges and migrations of the Anatidæ is here for the first time available. The paper is thus, aside from its great economic importance, a valuable contribution to ornithology.—J. A. A.

**Ward's 'Notes on the Herring Gull and the Caspian Tern.'**<sup>1</sup>—This is an account of two visits (in 1905 and 1906) to a large breeding colony of Herring Gulls and Caspian Terns at Gravel Island, at the northern end of Door County peninsula, Wisconsin, and contains many interesting observations on the manner of nesting and other matters connected with the home life of these species. The first season many young gulls were found dead on the beach, and the cause of their death was not easy to explain. On the second visit it was found that the old birds deliberately maltreated certain of the young birds, mortally wounding them. "The habit of killing the young," he says, "appears to be fairly common," but he is quite unable to account for such strange acts, which he repeatedly witnessed. "I was quite unable to see," he adds, "that the victims of these attacks were in any way abnormal, or that they had given any offense. . . . Rapid movement seemed always to excite the adults and a running young one was sure to be attacked by every adult near which it passed, but

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<sup>1</sup> Notes on the Herring Gull and the Caspian Tern (*Larus argentatus* and *Sterna caspia*). By Henry L. Ward. Bull. Wisconsin Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. IV, No. 4, October, 1906, pp. 113-134, with 2 plates.

these attacks that came under my observation consisted only of a few jabs of the beak on any part of the body, and none ended seriously." Two half-tone plates give four illustrations of scenes in gull life.—J. A. A.

**Game Laws for 1906.**<sup>1</sup>—This is the usual annual summary of the game laws revised and brought down to date, so as to include not only all the new legislation, but a summary of the more important bills which were considered and failed to pass. It is a condensed statement of the game laws of the United States and Canada, which govern seasons, shipment, sale, licenses, and other limitations, and is of the greatest interest and use to both game protectors and sportsmen, as well as to shippers and dealers in game. The legislation during 1906 was especially important in the Canadian Provinces, five of which passed new game laws, Alberta passing a law prohibiting spring shooting of water fowl. "The passage of the Mississippi statute marks the completion of a chain of nonexport laws in every State of the Union and provision for the appointment of special officers to enforce the game laws in every State except Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas." Several new preserves were established by Congress, and other preserves were made in the Provinces of Alberta and Quebec. Thus is progress made from year to year in the preservation of game almost throughout the continent.—J. A. A.

**Forbush's 'Useful Birds and their Protection.'**—In this volume<sup>2</sup> of over 450 pages, with numerous illustrations, we have set before us, by authorization of the Legislature of Massachusetts, one of the most important works yet published relating to the economic relations and protection of birds. By predilection, temperament, opportunities, and familiarity with his subject, the author is well fitted to deal fairly and exhaustively with the important topic here considered—the food relations of birds to agriculture, and hence the utility of birds to man. An introduction of 22 pages deals in a general way with 'The Utility of Birds in Nature,' while the succeeding twelve chapters treat of different phases of the general subject, and with the enemies of birds, and means for their protection. The chapter headings may here be cited as indicating the scope and general character of the work, as follows: 1. The Value of Birds

<sup>1</sup> Game Laws for 1906. A Summary of the provisions relating to seasons, shipment, sale, and licenses. By T. S. Palmer and R. W. Williams, Jr., Assistants, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin No. 265, 8vo, pp. 54, with maps and tables. Washington Government Printing Office, 1906.

<sup>2</sup> Useful Birds and their Protection. Containing Brief Descriptions of the more common and useful Species of Massachusetts, with Accounts of their Food Habits, and a Chapter on the Means of Attracting and Protecting Birds. By Edward Howe Forbush, Ornithologist to the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. Illustrated by the Author, C. Allan Lyford, Chester A. Reed, and others. Published under Direction of The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, by authority of the Legislature.—No date. 8vo, pp. i-xx, 1-437, with 171 text figures, colored frontispiece, and 56 half-tone plates. (Received March 18, 1907.)